

June 18, 1998

Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc.

Vol. XIX, No. 9

WHAT	NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF PSPCS.
WHERE	DES MOINES MASONIC TEMPLE 2208 S. 223rd St. (Take Midway exit #149 west off I-5...go to first stop light west of Pacific Hwy. S....turn right.)
WHEN	Thursday, June 18th, 1998..7:30 till 10:00 p.m. (doors open about 6:30 p.m.)
WHY	Short business meeting..auction (one item-lot-per member please)..door prize..member trade and sell tables (free to members, please cover during business meeting)...Show & Tell.. <u>PROGRAM</u> : Member <u>Don Friend</u> will show and discuss part of his collection.

SUMMER IS ALMOST HERE:

This is our last meeting until September 17th. On Monday the 22st the days will start getting less sun light so now is the time to be out and about hunting for those treasures you will need for Show & Tell in the Fall...the start of our 20th year. To help you with your hunting there are several summer shows you can attend. (If you have money left after Gary's Garage Sale & Swap which was held on the 6th & 7th.)

The third annual Gresham Camera Swap Meet is Saturday June 20, 1998 from 9:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. at the Gresham National Armory..500 NE Division St. in Gresham, Oregon. Go east on I-84 and take the Wood Village exit south..turn right on Division..cross Burnside and the armory will be on the left. Early birds (\$10.00) at 7:00 a.m. Admission is \$4.00 at 10:00 a.m. For info. call Janet Wilcox (503) 977-7818.

There is a new show for those of you who would like to travel to Eastern Washington in August. Saturday, August 15th to be exact in Pasco, Washington. The Tri-Cities Camera Club is sponsoring it's first Camera Swap Meet at the Masonic Temple..1718 W. Sylvester, Pasco. Tables are \$15.00 each with 50 available. Doors open for early bird buyers (\$5.00) at 8:00 a.m. and to general public (\$2.00) at 10:00 a.m. For all information contact Al Boston (509) 946-1765 or Frankie Knox (509) 946-6816 or write to the Tri-Cities Camera Club..P.O. Box 1151..Richland, WA 99352.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITS 1998: By Don Tempel

This year fifteen members answered the invitation of the Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society to exhibit their photographic collections. Year after year a faithful core of members plus one or two new collectors produce prize winning exhibits; and this year was no exception. The Society offers 20 free tables to any members who will make the commitment of time, money and ideas to further the goals of Photographic Collecting. Hopefully the following list of this years exhibits will inspire others to fill all 20 tables next year.

MARVIN NAUMAN had a highly original exhibit of a 1916 Model, Powers 6B Movie Projector. He changed the hands off warning to a hands on invitation and made the general public a part of the demonstration. If you missed cranking the hand powered projector or providing acoustical sound effects you really missed a unique and educational experience.

****BACKSIDE INFORMATION****

The May meeting of PSPCS came to order at 7:31 p.m. There were 43 members and no guests present. The minutes of the April meeting were approved as read. Because Shirley was off on a wild trip to hear music of the country there was no treasurer's report. Minutes were taken by Maxine Nagal in Shirley's absence. Maxine also brought nummies and set up the coffee. Much thanks Maxine!!

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Gary Sivertsen read a letter from Bob Kelly regarding the website. There is some concern that few members seem to be taking advantage of our site. Pictures of our show displays will be posted on the website. (address always printed at bottom of page two).

Chairman Mike Immel gave the final show report for 1998. He thanked the committee for doing another great job. He reported that because of increased expenses our net income was down slightly but there was every indication that when all the bills had been paid that the show would be in the black. Mike said he had to confront (without major problems) several individuals who took over a food area table and several who set-up in our rented parking lot. Parking problems were few and the numbering system was a help.

Bill Kimber shared a review of our show that appeared in the Portland club's publication. The reviewer seemed pleased with the show. Bill also related a story about an engraved Leica camera that had been stolen in Georgia and seen at our show by a dealer who flew to a show in Chicago the next day and ran into the man whose name was on the Leica. He had called to find out the name of Georgia dealers. No word if he found his camera.

PROGRAM

Bill Adams reported on his recent trip to the National Nikon Convention in New York City. He, and fellow member Mike Symons, stayed in Manhattan and took in the sights (and sites) and attended parties and demonstrations. About 50 of the Nikon's organizations 250 members came to the Convention. On Sunday Bill set-up at the NY City monthly camera show. He found the show disappointingly small with not too many buyers attending. Bill showed a Mickey Mouse figurine cranking a movie camera with a clock for a lense which he had purchased in a Manhattan store. Good job Bill! Thank you!

AUCTION:

Eight items/lots were auctioned for a total of \$133.75. All items up for bid sold.

SHOW & TELL

Six members had interesting "treasures" to share highlighted by three marvelous 19th Century Blair "detective" cameras shown by Don Tempel.

DOOR PRIZES: were won by Brandon Bass and Mike Comstock. Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.



THE BELLOWS Newsletter is published 9 times per year by Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc. Information for The Bellows should be sent to: Bill Kimber 1413 Weathervane Dr., Tacoma, WA 98466-5712 (253) 564-4046

The P.S.P.C.S. internet address is: <http://www.geocities.com/eureka/park/3740/>

Dues are \$10.00 per year and should be sent to Secretary/Treasurer Shirley Sparrow, 300 Pease Road, Cle Elum, WA 98922 (509) 674-1916. P.S.P.C.S. members receive first notification of our last Saturday in April yearly show.

PRESIDENT: DAVE STUDEBAKER, (253) 582-4878

BOB KELLY showed the Clarus camera and educated everyone with more variations than one would think existed. Flash on the bottom? Yes, and not a Rollie either. Ask Bob about his "new" Clarus.

DOMINIC SANTANGELO entertained young and old alike with an amazing display of toy and novelty cameras which he dubbed: The Plastic Frontier. Mickey Mouse of course, but Campbells Soup!!!

BILL KIMBER showed another original idea with his "The Golden Age of Chicago Minicam." These were plastic 127 and 620 size cameras made in numerous variations in Chicago during the period 1939 to 1959. What an interesting display. Bill is the long time Editor-In-Chief of The Bellows.

NORMA EID had another fascinating display of images. Her theme this year was paper images of war from the Spanish American War through World Wars I and II. The patriotic idea came through loud and clear in the photographs, their frames and the overall decor of her display. Norma writes on image collecting for The Cascade Panorama and recently had a most informative article on dating images by fashion and dress in the final (sob!!!) issue of The Photographer.

BUD PRESGROVE and his wife KATHLEEN from Marietta, Ga. had a first time exhibit of photogravures of American Indians by E.S. Curtis and Wanamaker. Beautiful large prints. Welcome to our show folks!

JAY BENDER was another first time exhibitor of items from his collection. Highlighting the interesting items was the distinctive logo of Bender Photographic which manufactures view camera kits in Leavenworth, Wa. Hope to see you at our show again Jay.

JOHN WELCH presented a beautifully prepared group of Graflex SLRs in a sometimes ignored film size of 3 1/4 x 4 1/4 inches. Rounding out the display were a number of accessories and instructions on making a usable collection of this format. John is co-editor with Mike Hanemann of the Graflex Historic Quarterly and writes knowlegably on large format in a number of Collector/Photographic publications.

MIKE HANEMANN, co-editor as mentioned above, appropriately showed a beautifully prepared display of five Folmer & Schwing Cameras all presented in their 1904 catalog. It is hard to beat polished brass, softly glowing exotic wood and red leather bellows! Mike did it up big and beautiful!

STUART CURRY continued the Argus Saga with yet another fascinating chapter. Stuart tells his story with bold clever graphics. Like Paul Harvey we want to see more of "The Rest of the Story."

DON FRIEND continues to educate us about the rare and exotic world of Alpa. A fine display of cameras, literature and accessories which projected quality as only Alpa can.

MILAN ZAHORCAK as usual fascinated us with the unusual. This year it was photographs of "Photographers & Their Cameras". A very insightful look in sepia and black & white of our world in the '90s and teens. Milan writes extensively about Photographic Collecting and history.

RALPH & BOBBI LONDON built their display around a theme of "Ground Glass & Roll Film". Of note is the fact that two of the four cameras they highlighted were Blair designs. These cameras along with the plate changing designs were the last gasp of the Dry Plate Era. As the London's showed us they are all quite ingenious, allowing the use of roll film or glass plates in the same camera. Ralph edits the very informative Cascade Panorama and both he and Bobbi write extensively for collector publications.

LES MORGAN showed us a "Box Full of Box Cameras". Arguably, no other design has had such an impact on the development of photography since Daguerre to the throw-aways of today. Les's display ran the alphabet from Ansco Panda to Zeiss Tenger and it was interesting from beginning to end.

MARVIN OLSEN developed his theme around a comprehensive look at Retina cameras and accessories. Marv gave us an extensive and entertaining look at rangefinders and reflexes, flash units and copy stands along with the attorney as a young man (or was that Martin?).

The Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society wishes to thank all the Exhibitors. You justify the "Show" in our advertising and a dimension of quality which is immeasurable.

Heartfelt thanks goes to our judges for this year: David Studebaker, Bob Peters and guest judge Geary Hufstedler from Dallas, Tx. As usual the displays were of high quality which calls for discerning judgement. The judges accomplished a difficult task in a short period of time in an outstanding manner!

The following edited article is used with thanks to the Arizona Photographic Collectors

A Look At Argus

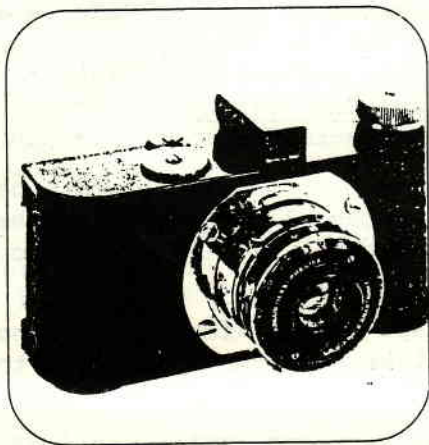
By Bill Powell

IRC (International Radio Corp.) was an Ann Arbor, Michigan-based company that made private brand radios, including the first AC-DC sets on the market for various department stores, to be sold under their own brand names in their own cabinets.

Around 1935, Charles Verschoor, the president of this company and his wife took a

trip to Germany. While there, he became interested in the Leica camera and bought one, mainly, he said, because the 35mm film feature allowed him to take 36 pictures on a roll without changing films, as compared to the eight exposures available on his wife's folding Kodak.

Verschoor, it is said, was bitten by the candid photography "bug", and on returning home, set up a small laboratory in his company to design a camera that would embody the principles of the German 35s



at a fraction of their cost, thus making 35mm "candid" photography available to nearly everyone. In about six months he had designed what was basically the Argus "A". Contrary to previously written material, I understand from my source that Verschoor did most of the designing of the camera, possibly figuring out how to produce it as cheaply as possible, while still maintaining a quality product. Gustav Fassin, who is usually given total design credit, was consulted for his knowledge of optics, optical glass and lens design. While Hex Optical Company actually produced the lens and shutter assembly Fassin, a Belgian, was then on the Board of Directors of IRC, and also held a position at one of the universities in Chicago. (It's possible that an industrial designer was employed to create the actual design shape of the Argus "A" body.)

The bakelite mold setup used to make the "A" bodies cost the company \$800 in 1936, which was the major expense in making the camera. The setup would mold four bodies at a time, the bakelite being received from the manufacturer in powdered form contained in large drums, the powder being melted down to make the castings. The lens and shutter assemblies were purchased from Hex Optical Company for about a dollar a piece. The camera was sold at first for \$10, then increased to \$12.50. IRC, at this time, had a work force of about 150 people.